

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 14 to 16 without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter and amend the claims as shown below. The claims, now pending in the application, now read as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An address restriction method executed by an address restriction apparatus on a network, comprising the steps of:

obtaining, from a message received from a transmission source device, a tentative network address generated by the transmission source device[[,]] which device is connected to the network, and a local address unique to the transmission source device;

determining whether the obtained tentative network address is a network address which is within an address range determined according to a predetermined rule and has been generated from the obtained local address unique to the transmission source device; and

in a case where the determining step determines that the tentative network address is the network address which is not within the address range determined according to the predetermined rule, sending a message to the transmission source device forbidding the use of the obtained tentative network address;

in a case where the determining step determines that the tentative network address is the network address which is within the address range determined according to the predetermined rule and has been generated from the obtained local address unique to the transmission source device, permitting the transmission source device to use the tentative network address for performing communication on the network; and

in a case where the determining step determines that the tentative network address is the network address which is within the address range determined according to the predetermined rule but has not been generated from the obtained local address unique to the transmission source device, sending a message to the transmission source device forbidding the use of the obtained tentative network address.

2. (Previously Presented) An address restriction method according to Claim 1, wherein said determining step determines whether the obtained tentative network address includes predetermined data.

3. (Previously Presented) An address restriction method according to Claim 1, wherein said obtaining step obtains a MAC address of a network interface provided for the transmission source device, as the local address unique to the transmission source device.

4. (Previously Presented) An address restriction method according to Claim 1, wherein said sending step sends a message indicating that the tentative network address has a collision.

5. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is stored an address restriction program executed by an address restriction apparatus on a network, the program comprising the steps of:

obtaining, from a message received from a transmission source device, a tentative network address generated by the transmission source device[[,]] which device is connected to the network, and a local address unique to the transmission source device;

determining whether the obtained tentative network address is a network address which is within an address range determined according to a predetermined rule and has been generated from the obtained local address unique to the transmission source device;

in a case where the determining step determines that the tentative network address is the network address which is not within the address range determined according to the predetermined rule, sending a message to the transmission source device forbidding the use of the obtained tentative network address;

in a case where the determining step determines that the tentative network address is the network address which is within the address range determined according to the predetermined rule and has been generated from the obtained local address unique to the transmission source device, permitting the transmission source device to use the tentative network address for performing communication on the network; and

in a case where the determining step determines that the tentative network address is the network address which is within the address range determined according to the predetermined rule but has not been generated from the obtained local address unique to the transmission source device, sending a message to the transmission source device forbidding the use of the obtained tentative network address.

6. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 5, wherein said determining step determines whether the tentative network obtained address includes predetermined data.

7. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 5, wherein said obtaining step obtains a MAC address of a network interface provided for the transmission source device, as the local address unique to the transmission source device.

8. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable storage medium according to Claim 5, wherein said sending step sends a message indicating that the tentative network address has a collision.

9. (Currently Amended) An address restriction apparatus connected to a network, comprising:

connection means for connecting the apparatus to the network and for obtaining, from a message received from a transmission source device, a tentative network address generated by the transmission source device which is connected to the network, and a local address unique to the transmission source device;

determination means for determining whether the obtained tentative network address is a network address which is within an address range determined according to a predetermined rule and has been generated from the obtained local address unique to the transmission source device,

wherein, in a case where the determination means determines that the tentative network address is the network address which is not within the address range determined according to the predetermined rule, said connection means sends a message to the transmission source device forbidding the use of the obtained tentative network address;

in a case where the determination means determines that the tentative network address is the network address which is within the address range determined according to the predetermined rule and has been generated from the obtained local address unique to the transmission source device, the connection means permits the transmission source device to use the tentative network address for performing communication on the network; and

in a case where the determination means determines that the tentative network address is the network address which is within the address range determined according to the predetermined rule but has not been generated from the obtained local address unique to the transmission source device, said connection means sends a message to the transmission source device forbidding the use of the obtained tentative network address.

10. (Previously Presented) An address restriction apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said determination means determines whether the obtained tentative network address includes predetermined data.

11. (Previously Presented) An address restriction apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said connection means obtains a MAC address of a network interface provided for the transmission source device, as the local address unique to the transmission source device.

12. (Previously Presented) An address restriction apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said connection means sends a message indicating that the obtained tentative network address has a collision.

13. (Previously Presented) An address restriction apparatus according to Claim 9, wherein said determination means performs a first determination of whether the obtained tentative network address has been generated from the obtained local address unique to the transmission source device and a second determination of whether the obtained tentative network address matches an address of the connection means; and

said connection means sends the message forbidding the use of the obtained tentative network address according to the result of the first determination and the result of the second determination.

14. to 16. (Canceled)